

Message Text

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 DLOS-09 /048 W
-----060122 231725Z /44

O 231533Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4168

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 2007

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON.

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, SA

SUBJECT: LOS - SUGGESTED MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY TO
PRINCE SAUD

1. YOU WILL RECALL THAT SHORTLY BEFORE I LEFT FOR NEW YORK I SENT YOU AND THE PRESIDENT, THROUGH ZBIG BRZEZINSKI, TALKING POINTS ON THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE FOR USE IN YOUR AND THE PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE SAUD. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE PRESIDENT TOUCHED ON LOS DURING HIS PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE FAHD. WE ARE NOT INFORMED WHETHER FAHD HAD ANY PARTICULAR REACTION TO THE POINTS THE PRESIDENT MADE TO HIM. IN UNDERSTAND TIME DID NOT PERMIT YOU TO RAISE LOS WHEN THE SAUDI MINISTERS VISITED THE STATE DEPARTMENT.

2. DESPITE THE PRESIDENT'S APPROACH AND MY OWN VISIT TO SAUDI ARABIA, THE SAUDIS DO NOT APPEAR TO HAVE TAKEN ANY SPECIFIC STEPS TO CARRY OUT THEIR GENERAL ASSURANCE TO ME THAT THEY WOULD COOPERATE WITH US TO ACHIEVE A MODERATE RESOLUTION OF THE OUTSTANDING CONFERENCE ISSUES RELATING TO THE SEABEDS. I SAW THE HEAD OF THE SAUDI DELEGATION, AMBASSADOR BAROODY, EARLIER THIS MONTH TO REITERATE THE ARGUMENTS I PRESENTED TO PRINCE SAUD IN RIYADH AND TO URGE BAROODY TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE ARAB GROUP AND THE GROUP OF 77 IN BEHALF
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OF A MODERATE POSITION ON SEABEDS ISSUES. MY CONVERSATION WITH BAROODY WAS NOT SATISFACTORY. HE WILL CLEARLY NOT TAKE A LEAD HERE UNLESS SO URGED BY HIS GOVERNMENT - EVEN THEN THERE IS A QUESTION HOW HE WOULD ACT, SINCE HE PRIDES HIMSELF ON HIS INDEPENDENCE.

3. WE HAVE REACHED A CRITICAL POINT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS.

ALTHOUGH THE GROUP OF 77 ARE DIVIDED, MANY OF THEM ARE TAKING EXTREME POSITIONS ON SEABEDS ISSUES WHICH WILL MAKE IT DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, TO REACH AN ACCEPTABLE ACCOMMODATION. THE ALGERIANS, LIBYANS AND KUWAITIS HAVE ATTACKED THE PARALLEL SYSTEM AS ENVISAGED IN THE EVENSEN TEXTS IN THE GROUP OF 77, WHILE THE EGYPTIANS HAVE GENERALLY REMAINED SILENT. IF THE SAUDIS WOULD MAKE KNOWN IN THE GROUP OF 77 AND THE ARAB GROUP THAT THEY FAVOR A MODERATE SOLUTION OF SEABEDS ISSUES, THIS ACTION WOULD CONTRIBUTE CONSIDERABLY TO STRENGTHENING THE HAND OF THE MODERATES IN THE GROUP OF 77 AND THIS FACILITATE A REASONABLE OUTCOME. CORRESPONDINGLY, IF THE SAUDIS WERE TO PERSUADE THE ARAB GROUP (PARTICULARLY EGYPT, KUWAIT AND OMAN) THAT CHANGES MUST BE MADE IN THE DRAFT TEXT ON ENSURE THE HIGH SEAS STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, THE IMPACT ON THE AFRICANS, WHO ARE THE SINGLE LARGEST GROUP IN THE G177 AND POSSIBLY THE KEY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION, COULD BE BENEFICIAL TO US.

4. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES I CONSIDER IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE TO MAKE A FURTHER APPROACH TO THE SAUDIS AT A HIGH LEVEL. A GENERAL MESSAGE FROM YOU TO SAUD WOULD SEEM TO ME APPROPRIATE. ONE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION FOLLOWS IN THE NEXT PARAGRAPH.

5. DRAFT TELEGRAM TO AMBASSY JIDDA AND INFO TO OTHER POSTS IN THE AREA AS NEA DEEMS APPROPRIATE. BEGIN TEXT:

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QUOTE: I PLEASE DELIVER MESSAGE IN PARAGRAPH 4 TO PRINCE SAUD FROM THE SECRETARY

. I IS DESIGNED A A FOLLOW-

UP TO THE RECENT VISIT OF CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND PRINCE SAUD TO THE UNITED STATES, AND TO THE CONVERSATION AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON HAD WITH PRINCE SAUD IN RIYADH ON MAY 1. (STATE 117024 AND MOSCOW 6105 RESPECTIVELY REPORTED AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S CONVERSATION WITH PRINCE SAUD AND CONVEYED A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TO THE PRINCE.)

QUOTE: 2. THE PRESIDENT TOUCHED ON LOS ISSUES WITH CROWN PRINCE FAHD IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, GENERALLY ON THE LINES OF AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON'S TALK TO RIYADH. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON TALKED WITH AMBASSADOR BARODDY ON JUNE 2 TO URGE BARODDY TO TAKE AN ACTIVE PART IN THE DISCUSSIONS ON SEABED ISSUES IN THE ARAB GROUP AND TO URGE ON THEM A MODERATE APPROACH TO SEABED ISSUES. BARODDY GAVE NO INDICATION THAT HE WOULD DO SO, CONTENDING THAT THE ARAB DELEGATES TO THE LOS CONFERENCE HAVE LITTLE LATITUDE AND HAVE TO TAKE THEIR CAPITALS. BARODDY THOUGHT THE EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE IN CAPITALS AND NOT IN NEW YORK.

QUOTE: 3. AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON THINKS THE CONFERENCE HAS REACHED A CRITICAL POINT OVER DEEP SEABED ISSUES AND THAT STATUS OF 200-MILE ECONOMIC ZONE. (SEE WIRELESS FILE OF JUNE 13 NE #9 FOR HIS PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENT OF JUNE 13 ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE CONFERENCE.)

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ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NEA-10 DLOS-09 /048 W

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O 231532Z JUN 77

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4169

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 2007

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON

AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON BELIEVES THAT IF THE SAUDIS COULD BE INDUCED TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE ROLE WITHIN THE ARAB GROUP, ESPECIALLY WITH EGYPT AND KUWAIT, AND THE GROUP OF 77 TO URGE A MODERATE APPROACH TO SEABED ISSUES, AS WELL AS TO SUPPORT HIGH SEAS STATUS FOR THE ECONOMIC ZONE, THIS COULD MATERIALLY HELP IN REACHING AN ACCOMMODATION OF VIEWS AT THE CONFERENCE. IN PARTICULAR WE HOPE THAT A MORE OUT-SPOKEN STANCE BY THE SAUDIS WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE EFFECT ON THE EGYPTIANS, WHO HAVE BEEN GENERALLY SILENT ABOUT SEABEDS ISSUES, AND ON KUWAIT WHICH HAS OPPOSED THE PARALLEL SYSTEM, WHICH IN OUR VIEW IS THE ONLY REALISTIC BASIS ON WHICH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION CAN BE FOUND.

FURTHER, WE HOPE THAT SAUDI ACTIVISM IN BEHALF OF FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF MITIGATING EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION TO ACCORDING EXPLICIT HIGH SEAS STATUS TO THE ECONOMIC ZONE.

ACCORDINGLY, WE WISH TO MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT TO ENGAGE THE SAUDIS MORE ACTIVELY. WE APPRECIATE BAROODY'S PENCHANT FOR RELATIVELY INDEPENDENT ACTION AND POSSIBLE RELUCTANCE OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO SEND HIM VERY FIRM GUIDANCE. AND WE ARE SENSITIVE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF NOT APPEARING TO PRESSURE BAROODY BY GOING AROUND HIM. NEVERTHELESS, WE HOPE THAT

THE RIGHT WORD FROM PRINCE SAUD TO BAROODY MIGHT HAVE THE
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DESIRED EFFECT.

QUOTE: 4. MESSAGE FOR PRINCE SAUD: BEGIN TEXT:

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS:

ONE IMPORTANT SUBJECT WHICH I REGRET WE DID NOT HAVE
TIME TO DISCUSS WHEN YOU AND THE CROWN PRINCE PAID US THE
HONOR OF VISITING WASHINGTON, IS THE LAW OF THE SEA CONFER-
ENCE. AS WE KNOW, THE PRESIDENT AND THE CROWN PRINCE
TOUCHED ON THE LAW OF THE SEA DURING THEIR PRIVATE MEETING.
I WOULD LIKE TO AMPLIFY MY GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON THE
CONFERENCE WHICH, IN OUR JUDGMENT, HAS REACHED A CRITICAL
POINT. THE POSITIONS OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND THOSE
OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS SEEM FAR APART ON THE ISSUE OF THE
DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESOURCES OF THE DEEP SEABEDS. WE
BELIEVE THAT RELATIVELY FEW STATES, ALGERIA, LIBYA AND KUWAIT
AMONG THEM, HAVE BEEN UNDULY EFFECTIVE IN PERSUADING THE
GROUP OF 77 TO TAKE EXTREME, IMPRACTICAL POSITIONS ON A
NUMBER OF ISSUES RELATING TO THE SEABEDS. IF THE IMPASSE IS
NOT BROKEN, THE CHANCES OF ACHIEVING A TREATY WILL BE LOST.
THE CONSEQUENCE WOULD BE, AS AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON OBSERVED
DURING HIS CONVERSATION WITH YOU IN MAY, THAT SAUDI ARABIA
AND THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT GAIN THE PROTECTION OF THEIR
INTERESTS IN FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION AND PASSAGE THROUGH
STRAITS WHICH OUR RESPECTIVE NATIONAL INTERESTS DEMAND, AND
WOULD FORCE A FURTHER DETERIORATION IN NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS
THAT COULD BE EXPLOITED BY OTHERS.

THE CONFERENCE IS ALSO IN A DIFFICULT SITUATION REGARD-
ING THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE. THE SUPPORT OF
YOUR DELEGATION FOR EFFORTS TO ENSURE FULL PROTECTION FOR
HIGH SEAS STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE WOULD BE OF INESTIMABLE
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VALUE, AND FULLY CONSONANT WITH THE NEED TO PROTECT OUR
MUTUAL COMMUNICATION LINES.

I THINK IT IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE THAT OUR TWO COUNTRIES
WHICH HAVE SO MUCH TO GAIN FROM A REASONABLE, COMPREHENSIVE
TREATY CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY TO ENSURE THAT THERE IS A
MODERATE, ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF THE DIFFICULT ISSUES IN-
VOLVED IN THE SEABEDS, THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC

ZONE AND A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

AMBASSADOR RICHARDSON INFORMS ME THAT HE HAS TALKED WITH
AMBASSADOR BAROODY AND LOOKS FORWARD TO WORKING WITH HIM AND
THE SAUDI DELEGATION.

I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT WE INSTRUCT OUR RESPECTIVE
DELEGATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE TO CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY
TO THE END THAT MODERATE SOLUTIONS MAY BE FOUND TO THE
COMPLEX ISSUES FACING THE CONFERENCE. MAY I ADD THAT I
HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT SAUDI
ARABIA, WHICH ENJOYS SUCH GREAT INTERNATIONAL RESPECT,
WOULD EXERT ITS INFLUENCE AMONG THE ARAB GROUP, AND MORE
WIDELY AS WELL, TO COUNSEL MODERATION AND A SPIRIT OF
COMPROMISE. I HOPE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS WOULD CONSIDER
URGING EGYPT AND KUWAIT IN PARTICULAR TO TAKE POSITIONS ON
THE ISSUES OF THE SEABEDS AND THE HIGH SEAS STATUS OF THE
ECONOMIC ZONE WHICH WILL FACILLITATE COMPROMISE.

YOUR COUNTRY AND MINE SHARE COMMON GOALS IN THIS
IMPORTANT CONFERENCE. I AM SURE THAT BY COOPERATING CLOSELY
WE CAN TOGETHER ADVANCE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE AND
CONTRIBUTE TO THE PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE WORLD.

(COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE)

C. VANCE END TEXT.
MCHENRY
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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